

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0011] with: A preferred embodiment of the invention provides peptides that have been found to act as substrates for the family of aggrecan degrading metallo proteases (ADMPS). One peptide, based on the human aggrecan sequence around the Glu373-Ala374 ~~Ala373-Glu374~~ ADMP-sensitive site has the sequence:

1 QTVTWPDMELPLPRNITEGE-ARGSVILTVKPIFEVSPSPL (SEQ ID NO:1).

Please replace paragraph [0012] with: A second peptide, based on the bovine aggrecan sequence around the Glu373-Ala374 ~~Ala373-Glu374~~ ADMP-sensitive site has the sequence:

2 QTVTWPVELPLPRNITEGE-ARGSVILTAKPDFEVSPTAPE (SEQ ID NO:2).